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(CIA)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SENIOR CIA OFFICIALS ARE REACTING WITH "CONSIDERABLE DISQUIET" TO THE PROSPECT OF A MAJOR SHAKE-UP OF THEIR AGENCY UNDER ITS NEW DIRECTOR, INFORMED SOURCES SAID TODAY.

THE FIRST DEVELOPMENT IN THE REORGANIZATION CAME YESTERDAY WITH THE RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY CIA DIRECTOR HENRY KNOCHE. SOURCES SAID HE HAD BEEN FORCED OUT BY DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER.

THE SOURCE SAID THERE IS GROWING OPPOSITION TO TURNER'S REPORTED PLANS TO SIMILARLY FORCE THE EARLY RETIREMENT OF HIGH LEVEL OFFICERS PLUS A MASSIVE PURGE OF THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH HANDLES CLANDESTINE AND COVERT ACTIVITIES.

"THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISQUIET OUT THERE!" SAID ONE SOURCE, REFERRING TO THE CIA HEADQUARTERS IN NEARBY VIRGINIA.

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CIA RESIGNATION

BY EVANS WITT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE MAN WHO RAN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY FOR THE PAST YEAR HAS QUIT IN AN APPARENT DISPUTE OVER MAJOR CHANGES PLANNED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S CIA DIRECTOR.

THE RESIGNATION OF E. HENRY KNOCHE, SUBMITTED TO CARTER ON JULY 5, MAY BE THE FIRST IN A SERIES BY CIA VETERANS IN WHAT REPORTEDLY IS A POLICY DISAGREEMENT WITH CIA DIRECTOR ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER.

KNOCHE, WHO RECEIVED THE GOVERNMENT'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD SIX MONTHS AGO FROM THEN-PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD, WAS THE NO. 2 EXECUTIVE IN THE CIA, HOLDING THE TITLE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE.

A CIA SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THE RESIGNATION WEDNESDAY AND DENIED REPORTS THAT KNOCHE HAD BEEN FORCED TO RESIGN.

THE 24-YEAR VETERAN OF THE SCANDAL-SCARRED AGENCY EXPLAINED HIS DECISION IN A LETTER DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER CIA EMPLOYEES LATE WEDNESDAY.

"WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COME THROUGH SOME DIFFICULT TIMES TOGETHER IN RECENT YEARS," THE LETTER SAID. "MORE CHANGE LOOMS ON THE HORIZON AND PROPERLY SO. DEALING WITH THESE CHANGES WILL BE AN EXCITING TASK.

"BUT, IN THE END, HAVING WEIGHED ALL THE FACTORS, I CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE AGENCY AND THE NATION'S INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS IF I STEPPED ASIDE NOW TO FACILITATE THE DIRECTOR'S TASK AS HE PREPARES TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT NEW ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS AND THE KIND OF NEW LEADERSHIP THAT HE WILL NEED TO CARRY OUT HIS FUTURE PLANS."

KNOWLEDGERABLE SOURCES SAID WEDNESDAY THAT KNOCHE, 52, RESIGNED

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BECAUSE OF A DISPUTE WITH TURNER OVER HIS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. AND, THE SOURCES SAID MORE RESIGNATIONS OF CIA VETERANS ARE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF DISGRUNTLEMENT WITH TURNER'S POLICY INITIATIVES AS WELL AS HIS TACTICS IN RUNNING THE AGENCY.

DETAILS OF THE POLICY DISPUTE WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

DESPITE KNOCHE'S STATEMENT, THE CIA DENIED THAT MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES -- FORCED OR VOLUNTARY -- OR MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL SHIFTS ARE PLANNED.

"THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR FORCED RETIREMENTS OR REMOVALS OF ANY TOP CIA OFFICIALS. THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN THE CIA ORGANIZATION AT THIS TIME," THE CIA STATEMENT SAID.

ONE SOURCE SAID THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING KNOCHE'S RESIGNATION AND REPORTS OF TURNER FORCING OTHER AGENCY OFFICIALS OUT MAY FORESTALL ANY SUCH FIRINGS BY TURNER.

SOURCES FROM BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES CHARGED WITH OVERSEEING THE CIA COMPLAINED THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN NO WORD ON THE KNOCHE RESIGNATION, DESPITE CARTER PLEDGES TO KEEP THEM FULLY INFORMED.

KNOCHE'S SUCCESSOR WILL HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

PRESIDENT CARTER SAID AT A FEBRUARY 1977 NEWS CONFERENCE THAT KNOCHE WAS "VERY COMPETENT." AT THE TIME, KNOCHE WAS ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE CIA, FILLING THE GAP BETWEEN THE RESIGNATION OF GEORGE BUSH AND TURNER'S CONFIRMATION.

KNOCHE JOINED THE CIA IN 1953 AS AN ANALYST. HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON FROM THE ANALYSIS BRANCH, WHICH MAKES UP THE LARGEST PORTION OF THE AGENCY, TO REACH A POSITION AS HIGH AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN THE AGENCY. PREVIOUS CAREER CIA OFFICIALS TO REACH THE TOP ECHELON OF THE AGENCY HAD COME FROM THE AGENCY'S CLANDESTINE SERVICE.

FOR THE LAST 14 YEARS, KNOCHE HAS HANDLED A VARIETY OF JOBS. IN 1963, HE WAS MADE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CIA DIRECTOR. IN 1967, HE WAS NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER. IN 1965, HE WAS MADE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR BUDGETING AND PLANNING AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE IN 1970. IN 1975, HE WAS NAMED ASSOCIATE DEPUTY TO THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE.

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